

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 447

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7107

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, CI (JARPA REYES, SERGIO ONOFRE)

SUBJECT: GOC NAMES SERGIO ONOFRE JARPA REYES AS AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA

1. NATIONAL PARTY (PN) PRESIDENT AND FORMER SENATOR SERIO ONOFRE JARPA REYES WAS NAMED CHILE'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA ON JULY 19. HE REPLACES CAREER DIPLOMAT ALEJANDRO JARA LAZCANO, WHO, AS BEST AS WE CAN DETERMINE, WAS REMOVED FOR BEING TOO OUTSPOKEN.
2. JARPA'S APPOINTMENT REFLECTS THE GOC'S CONTINUING ATTEMPT TO MAKE USE OF SYMPATHETIC POLITICAL FIGURES IN GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS THE GOC CONTINUING UNWILLINGNESS TO GIVE THEM MEANINGFUL POLITICAL TASKS AT HOME. THE APPOINTMENT FURTHER DISPLAYS THE GOC'S UNHAPPINESS WITH MANY CAREER DIPLOMATS AND THE IMAGE PRESENTED BY THEM ABROAD.
3. JARPA BECOMES THE FOURTH PN POLITICIAN NAMED AMBASSADOR BY THE GOC. (OTHERS ARE FRANCISCO BULNES -- LIMA; JORGE ERRAZURIZ -- PARIS; AND AUGUST MARAMBIO -- BRUSSELS.)
4. A FARMER AND BUSINESSMAN WITH STRONG RIGHT-WING SYMPATHIES, JARPA WAS ELECTED PN PRESIDENT IN AUGUST 1968. HE IS STRONGLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE AUTHORITARIAN WING OF THE PN RATHER THAN WITH THE DEMOCRATIC. HE TAKES THE CURRENT POLITICAL RECESS IN CHILE SERIOUSLY AND HAS EFFECTIVELY KEPT THE PN OUT OF ALL

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POLITICAL ACTIVITY SINCE THE SEPTEMBER 1973 COUP. IN A RECENT

INTERVIEW, HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT NOT ONLY SHOULD THERE BE A POLITICAL RECESS, BUT THAT ALL POLITICAL PARTIES SHOULD BE DISSOLVED AS WELL.

5. JARPA WAS A MEMBER OF THE CHILEAN DELEGATION TO THE 1974 UNGA, WHERE HE SHOWED HIMSELF STRIDENTLY ANTI-COMMUNIST, INFLEXIBLE IN HIS DEFENSE OF GOC POSITIONS, AND THEREFORE OF LITTLE EFFECTIVENESS IN THE UN CONTEXT. HE IS CRITICAL OF US POLICY TOWARD THE GOC AND BELIEVES IN TAKING A HARD LINE IN WORLD AFFAIRS.

6. BIOGRAPHIC AND PERSONAL DATA: JARPA WAS BORN ON MARCH 8, 1921 IN RENGO. HE STUDIED AT THE COLEGIO PATROCINO SAN JOSE, RECEIVING THE EQUIVALENT OF A HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE. JARPA FARMED FOR A TIME IN THE CENTRAL ZONE IN CHILE. IN ADDITION TO THE PN PRESIDENCY, JARPA ALSO WAS ELECTED TO THE SANTIAGO CITY COUNCIL IN 1971 AND AS SENATOR FOR THE FIRST DISTRICT OF SANTIAGO IN MARCH 1973. HE IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER SILVIA MORENO ANWANDTER AND HAS FOUR CHILDREN: SERGIO, JORGE, ISABEL, AND FRANCISCO. A SOMEWHAT DOUR, HUMORLESS PERSON, JARPA DOES NOT MAKE CONVERSATION EASILY. HIS FOREIGN LANGUAGE CAPABILITIES ARE NOT KNOWN.
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